

March 17, 2005

**Central Nevada Interagency  
Dispatch Center**

**FIRE DANGER OPERATING AND PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Winnemucca / Battle Mountain Field Offices**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE  
Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest  
Santa Rosa/Austin-Tonopah Ranger Districts**

**Effective Date  
March 30, 2005**

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## Acronyms

<b>ACL</b>	Access Control List (WIMS)
<b>AFDR</b>	Adjective Fire Danger Rating
<b>AFMO</b>	Assistant Fire Management Officer
<b>BI</b>	Burning Index
<b>BLM</b>	Bureau of Land Management
<b>WGBCC</b>	Western Great Basin Coordination Center
<b>ERC</b>	Energy Release Component
<b>FDOP</b>	Fire Danger Operating Plan
<b>FMO</b>	Fire Management Officer
<b>CNIDC</b>	Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center
<b>NFDRS</b>	National Fire Danger Rating System
<b>NIFC</b>	National Interagency Fire Center
<b>NWCG</b>	National Wildfire Coordinating Group
<b>NWS</b>	National Weather Service
<b>RAWS</b>	Remote Automated weather Station
<b>SFMO</b>	State Fire Management Officer
<b>SI</b>	Staffing Index
<b>SL</b>	Staffing Level
<b>USFS</b>	United States Forest Service (FS)
<b>WIMS</b>	Weather Information Management System
<b>BIA</b>	Bureau of Indian Affairs

## Introduction

Each Agency is required to have a fire Preparedness Plan. The *2005 Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations* requires Bureau field offices to have a Fire Danger Operation Plan (FDOP) (which includes the Preparedness Plan). Interagency partners are included in this plan.

This Fire Danger Operating Plan establishes the setup and implementation of the NFDRS fire danger modeling program for the Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center as required in Chapter 09, Preparedness, within the *2005 Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations*.

The Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center (CNIDC), dispatches for Winnemucca and Battle Mountain Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Offices, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Santa Rosa and Austin-Tonopah Ranger Districts and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) (under agreement).

Fire danger is one of several factors used to determine preparedness levels and resulting operational decisions. Other factors include resource availability, current weather, and fire activity. The resulting decision matrix of action items described below (in Part 5) does not necessarily account for other factors such as training levels, political factors, mutual aid status, overriding budget constraints, and other pertinent factors.

This plan will help simplify the decision-making process for agency administrators, fire managers dispatchers, agency cooperators, and firefighters by setting agency planning and dispatch levels using fire business break points (based on past fire history and weather). Adjective fire danger ratings (low, high, etc) will be determined using standard climatological break points.

This plan addresses fire danger levels and ratings, with emphasis on information and resource sharing between federal agencies, cooperating state and county agencies, private industry, and the public.

This plan is primarily for the time period of May through October.

## Objectives

- A. Provide a tool for agency administrators, fire managers, dispatchers, agency cooperators, and firefighters to gauge fire danger ratings within the fire suppression areas.
- B. Define fire danger rating areas with similar weather, fuels, topography, and fire occurrence within existing dispatch area.
- C. Establish a fire weather monitoring network made up of Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS).
- D. Determine fire business and adjective fire danger rating break points using the Weather Information Management System (WIMS), the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), Fire Family Plus software, and by analyzing historical climatologically data fire history.
- E. Define roles and responsibilities in order to make fire planning decisions, manage weather information, provide weather forecasts, and brief fire suppression personnel.

- F. Ensure that agency administrators, fire managers, and cooperating agencies, private industry (ranchers, land owners, railroad), and the public are notified of the adjective fire danger rating and local preparedness levels.
- G. Make recommendation to personnel outlining specific daily actions to take at each planning level.
- H. Develop and distribute fire danger pocket cards to all personnel involved with fire suppression activities.
- I. Suggest improvements annually for the Fire Danger Rating Operation Plan.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- A. **Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan:** This plan provides a method to calculate the preparedness and dispatch levels and also provides guidelines for actions to be taken when specific preparedness levels are reached. It will not provide information regarding extenuating factors influencing fire management decisions. Annual updates to the plan will be approved by the agency managers; annually interim updates can be approved by the FMO's. This plan is to be reviewed annually by April 15 and updated by April 30.
- B. **Suppression Resources:** Each agency is responsible for determining suppression resources needed for their agency based on their fire management plan.
- C. **CNIDC MACG Organization:**
- D. **Duty Officer:** For the purpose of this plan, a Duty Officer is usually defined as a FOS, AFMO, FMO, or whoever the local unit designates, who provides input and guidance regarding planning and dispatch levels. It is the decision of the Duty Officer to interpret and modify the daily preparedness and dispatch levels as required by factors not addressed by this plan. The Duty Officers will keep the CNIDC Manager(s) updated as needed.
- E. **Fire Weather Forecasting:** At present the Elko, Reno and Las Vegas National Weather Service (NWS) Offices provide Fire Weather Forecasts, Spot Weather Forecasts and a daily Trend Forecast used to generate forecasted fire danger indices. The Elko NWS office currently has forecasting responsibilities for (*Zone 451, 454 and 457*). The Reno NWS office has forecast responsibilities for (*Zone 453*). The Las Vegas NWS office has forecast responsibilities for (*Zone 456*). This is identified in the Fire Weather Zone Map, Appendix A-1 at the end of this document.

The Predictive Services program at the Western Great Basin Coordination Center (GACC) in Reno also employs fire weather meteorologists. Predictive Services combines Intelligence Specialists, Fuels Specialists and dedicated weather forecasters to "support the decision-making process of local, state, geographic area and national organizations whose job it is to efficiently allocate resources to existing and anticipated suppression, fire use and prescribed fire operations." Predictive Services is Nevada BLM's liaison to the NWS offices and provides training, specialized products and statistical studies to support the Fire Danger program.

NWS fire weather focal point(s) and BLM Predictive Service meteorologists are identified in the Contact List, Appendix A-2 at the end of this document.

- F. NFDRS Outputs and Indices:** The CNIDC Manager will ensure that the daily fire weather forecast (including NFDRS indices) is retrieved and that the daily interagency preparedness and dispatch planning levels are determined and distributed or made available.
- G. Risk Analysis Information:** Each agency will assemble seasonal risk information such as live fuel moisture, 1,000 hour moisture, fuel loading, NFDRS (BI/ERC) trends, NDVI imagery, and other pertinent data.
- H. Weather Station Maintenance:** The Remote Sensing Laboratory located at the National Fire Center (NIFC) maintains and calibrates the RAWS stations on an annual basis for the BLM.

The CNIDC Manager is the RAWS coordinator for the Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center. Bureau of Land Management stations are maintained in accordance with the BLM RAWS Strategic Plan (1997). The Automated Sorting, Conversion, and Distribution System (ASCADS) are used to track RAWS maintenance and station status.

- I. WIMS Access and Station Catalog Editing:** The BLM is listed as the station owner for 14 RAWS units. The CNIDC Center Manager maintains the WIMS Access Control List (ACL). CNIDC will ensure appropriate editing of the RAWS catalogs for their stations. The CNIDC Intelligence Dispatcher will ensure the timely editing of daily 1300 weather observations.
- J. Planning and Dispatch Level Guidelines:** The CNIDC Operations Group will be responsible for establishing and reviewing the planning and dispatch level guidelines on an annual basis, at a minimum.
- K. Planning and Preparedness Levels Notifications:** The CNIDC Manager will ensure that all initial agency notifications are based on the planning and preparedness level procedures and direction provided by the Duty Officers.
- L. Public and Industrial Awareness:** Awareness and prevention programs will be implemented based on Planning Level Guidelines and direction provided by Duty Officers.
- M. NFDRS and Adjective Fire Danger Break Points:** Weather and fire data will be analyzed on an annual basis and each agency will ensure that the break points reflect the most accurate information.
- N. Fire Danger Pocket Cards:** Each agency will ensure that pocket cards are prepared on an annual basis at a minimum. The cards will be distributed to all local and incoming firefighters as well as overhead. The pocket cards will be posted on the National Wildlife Coordinating Group (NWCG) pocket card web site. The Duty Officer will utilize pocket cards to train and brief suppression personnel.
- O. Action Items:** Various personnel assigned to the Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center Operations Group are responsible for establishing appropriate actions for each preparedness level. Actions include fire use, fire prevention/education, suppression, information, and others.
- P.** By December 1, all areas and weather station catalogs will be checked for appropriate freeze dates. By April 1, all areas and weather station catalogs will be checked for appropriate green-up dates.

## Fire Danger Rating

The National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) utilizes the WIMS processor to manipulate weather data and forecasts stored in the NIFMID database to produce fire danger rating within a pre-determined Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA). The system is designed to calculate worst-case scenario fire danger. NFDRS will be utilized in four ways for the purposes of this plan. The first is to compute an **Agency Planning Level**, which will help agency personnel determine an appropriate state of readiness of suppression forces. The **Dispatch Level** is a decision tool for dispatchers to utilize when assigning initial attack resources to new fire starts. The **Interagency Preparedness Level** is a derivative of the Agency Planning Level and it's used by dispatch to determine its staffing levels and for determining the interagency support available for out of the area fires. The fourth utilization of NFDRS is to complete the **Adjective Fire Danger** rating for the purpose of communicating fire danger to public and industrial interests.

Although publicizing fire danger ratings will not prevent all human-caused fires, a strong effort should be made to communicate the fire danger as it changes throughout the fire season. The social, political, and financial resources can potentially be associated with any wildfire. As the fire danger fluctuates, agency personnel need to have pre-planned responses. The actions should not only focus on fire suppression, but also in fire prevention.

### A. Rating Systems

1. **Agency Planning Level:** Planning levels are based upon the association of the BI and ERC values with the records of BLM fires occurring in each of the three Fire Danger Rating Areas within Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center. The daily indices from WIMS will be combined into a five day average to prevent "spiking" of the level. A five level Agency Planning Chart determines the readiness level. The break points for the planning level is set using a historical analysis from Fire Family Plus, of fire business and its relationship to 1300 RAWs observations entered into the NIFMID database and processed by WIMS, which calculates the staffing index values (BI, ERC, etc). The Agency Planning Level is used to determine the overall preparedness of the units. Several procedures and guidelines are to be followed once the planning level has been determined. The agency planning level will be used in the Morning Intelligence Report for CNIDC.
2. **Dispatch Level:** This level, in addition to the use of agency run cards, guides dispatchers when assigning resources to initial attack fire responses. Dispatch levels are based on BI's for the North and South Fire Danger Rating Areas and ERC's for the Central Fire Danger Rating Area, with modifiers for Haines index and Red Flag Warnings for all three FDRAs. Three dispatch levels are determined; low, moderate and high. The breakpoints for the dispatch level are set using a historical analysis from Fire Family Plus of fire business and its relationship to 1300 RAWs observations entered into the NIFMID database and processed by WIMS, which calculates the staffing index values (BI, ERC, etc).
3. **Interagency Preparedness Level:** The preparedness level is a five tier (1-5) fire danger rating system based on agency planning levels and fire business indicators. The fire business indicators used to calculate the preparedness level are large/multiple fire activity. A flow chart guides personnel through the process. Several procedures and guidelines are to be followed once the Interagency Preparedness Level has been determined. These procedures affect staffing levels of the fire center and items such as draw down levels.

4. **Adjective Fire Danger:** This rating is used by agency personnel to inform public and industrial interests about the fire danger in specific geographical areas (FDRA's). It will be based on the agency planning levels. There a five classes (1-5) that correspond to low, moderate, high, very high, and extreme levels of adjective fire danger.



## Fire Danger Inventory

### A. Fire Danger Rating Areas

Three Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs) have been defined; they are identified as the South, Central and North FDRAs including the North (Winnemucca Field Office), a Central (northern Battle Mountain Field Office, approximately north of 39 degrees north latitude), and the South (southern Battle Mountain Field Office) (Map 1). These areas are defined by their fuel, topography, fire history characteristics, RAWs station locations and National Weather Service break points for weather reporting (Table 1).

#### 1. North FDRA

- a. **Location:** The North FDRA covers lands located below 5500' in elevation. This is primarily BLM and Forest Service administered with scattered tracts of private and state lands administered by the counties and state.
- b. **Fuels:** The fuels of the North FDRA consist of: Forbes, Perennial Grasses, Western Annual Grasses, Salt Desert Shrub, Sagebrush, and intermixed Pinyon-Juniper. The vegetation best described as an arid desert or Mojave plant community. Fuel models that best depict the vegetative state are NFDRS Fuel Models A, T and L, and BI as the NFDRS to calculate agency planning levels.
- c. **Weather:** Hot and Dry weather typically dominates the North Elevation FDRA during the fire season; Nevada is the third driest states in the nation. The temperatures rises into the 100's, relative humidity drops to the single digits, and wetting rains are scarce. Summer weather patterns that effect the areas are westerly and south westerly flows. Westerly flows generally bring hot and dry air into the region with little to no precipitation. The main concern is when low pressure systems or upper level disturbances pass the area with enough energy and moisture to initiate thunderstorm activity and erratic winds. Fire activity may be infrequent, but the potential for large growth is usually quite high. South westerly flows typically bring monsoonal moisture into the region. Fire frequency may increase due to additional thunderstorm activity, but large fire growth potential may be lower due to increased moisture.
- d. **Topography:** The North FDRA is a mixture of flats, deserts, mesas, and canyons.
- e. **Fire Occurrence:** The North Elevation FDRA has an average of 60 fires per year.

#### 2. Central FDRA

- a. **Location:** The Central FDRA covers lands in the Battle Mountain Field Office from Battle Mountain south to the northern Nye County line (approx. North 39° latitude). It primarily includes lands in Lander and southern Eureka Counties administered by the BLM and Forest Service.
- b. **Fuels:** The fuels complexes of the Central FDRA are similar to the South FDRA.

FDRA except that the area has a greater concentration of 100 and 1000-hour time lag fuels. The vegetation is best described as a semi-arid salt desert shrub community. NFDRS fuel models that best represent the vegetative state are Models F and C. Fires of concern typically occur in steep and remote country where access is a problem. Burning Index (BI) and Energy Release Component (ERC) will be used to calculate Agency Planning Levels.

- c. **Weather:** The weather trends in the Central FDRA are quite similar to those of the South FDRA, with the primary difference being cooler temperatures by as much as 10-20 degrees.
- d. **Topography:** The Central FDRA includes the multiple north-south trending mountain ranges throughout central Nevada, separated by wide, lower elevation valleys. The drainages are steep, rocky, and often inaccessible. The remoteness of many of these areas hinders radio and cellular communications.
- e. **Fire Occurrence:** The Central FDRA has an average of 40 fires per year.

### 3. South

- a. **Location:** The South FDRA covers lands in the Battle Mountain Field Office extending south from the northern Nye County line (approximately North 39° latitude) These lands encompass Nye and Esmeralda Counties and are primarily administered by the BLM and Forest Service with scattered tracts of private and state lands.
- b. **Fuels:** The fuels of the South FDRA consist of: Forbes, Perennial Grasses, Western Annual Grasses, Salt Desert Shrub, Sagebrush, and intermixed Pinyon-Juniper. The vegetation is best described as an arid desert or Mojave plant community. Fuel models that best predict the vegetative state is NFDRS Fuel Model A, T, and L with BI and ERC used as the NFDRS indices to calculate agency planning levels.
- c. **Weather:** Hot and dry weather typically dominates the South FDRA during the fire season; Nevada is the third driest state in the nation. Wetting rains are scarce while temperature rises into the 100's and relative humidity drops into the single digits. Summer weather patterns that affect the area are westerly and southwesterly flows. Westerly flows generally bring hot and dry air into the region with little to no precipitation. The main concern is when low pressure systems or upper level disturbances pass the area with enough energy and moisture to initiate thunderstorm activity and erratic winds. Fire activity may be infrequent but the potential for large fire growth is usually quite high. Southwesterly flows typically bring monsoonal moisture into the region. Fire frequency may increase due to additional thunderstorm activity, but large fire growth potential may be lower due to increased moisture.
- d. **Topography:** The South FDRA transitions from the higher-elevation based Central FDRA with its north-south trending ranges to a mixture of flats, deserts, mesas, and canyons.
- e. **Fire Occurrence:** The South FDRA has an average of 10-15 fires per year.

**FDRA Characteristics Table 1.**

	<b>South FDRA</b>	<b>Central FDRA</b>	<b>North FDRA</b>
<b>NFDRS Fuel Models</b>	Primary A, L, T, F	Primary A, L, T, F	Primary A,T,C,L
<b>Slope Class</b>	1 (0-25%)	2 (26-40%)	1 (0-25%)
<b>Climate Class</b>	1 (Arid)	1 (Arid)	1 (Arid)
<b>Annual Precipitation</b>	4-8 inches	12 inches	8-12 inches
<b>Top Elevation</b>		feet	feet
<b>Bottom Elevation</b>		feet	feet
<b>Acres</b>			

**B. Weather Stations****1. Description**

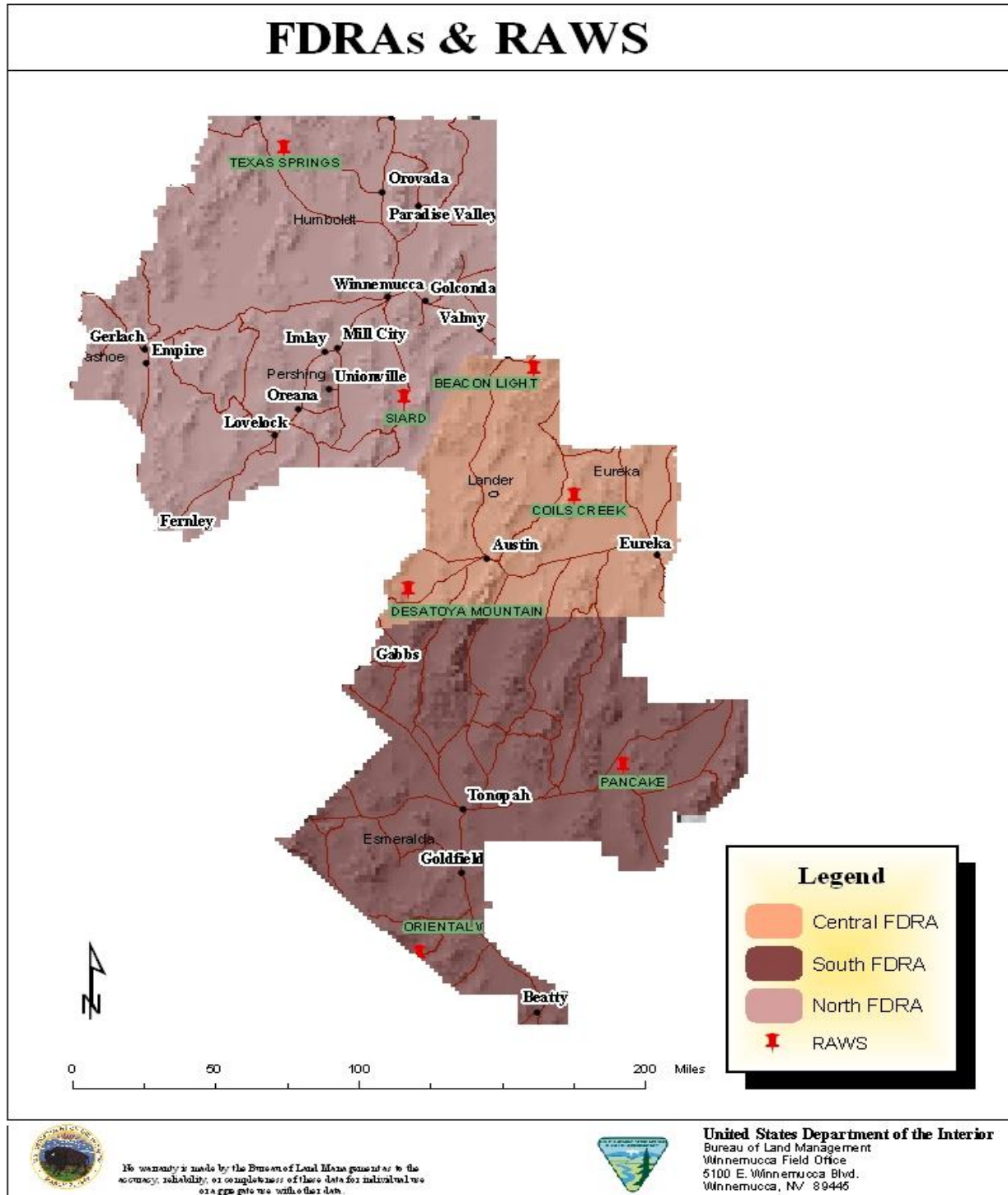
The following remote automatic weather stations (RAWS) are located within the areas covered by this plan (Map 1):

<b>South FDRA</b>	<b>NWS ID</b>	<b>Elevation</b>
Pancake	261404	5200'
Oriental Wash	261502	4100'

<b>Central FDRA</b>	<b>NWS ID</b>	<b>Elevation</b>
Beacon Light	260505	4800'
Coils Creek	260603	6800'
Desatoya Mountain	260503	6200'

<b>North FDRA</b>	<b>NWS ID</b>	<b>Elevation</b>
Texas Springs	260206	5760'
Siard	260402	4600'

## Fire Danger Rating Area and RAWS Map (1)



## **C. Fire Business**

In order to define dispatch planning levels, fire business break points need to be set. A break point is a threshold at which an index such as the Burning Index (BI) or a component such as the Energy Release Component (ERC) correlates to a change in historical fire activity. Dispatch planning differs from adjective fire danger ratings because they take fire history and weather data into account.

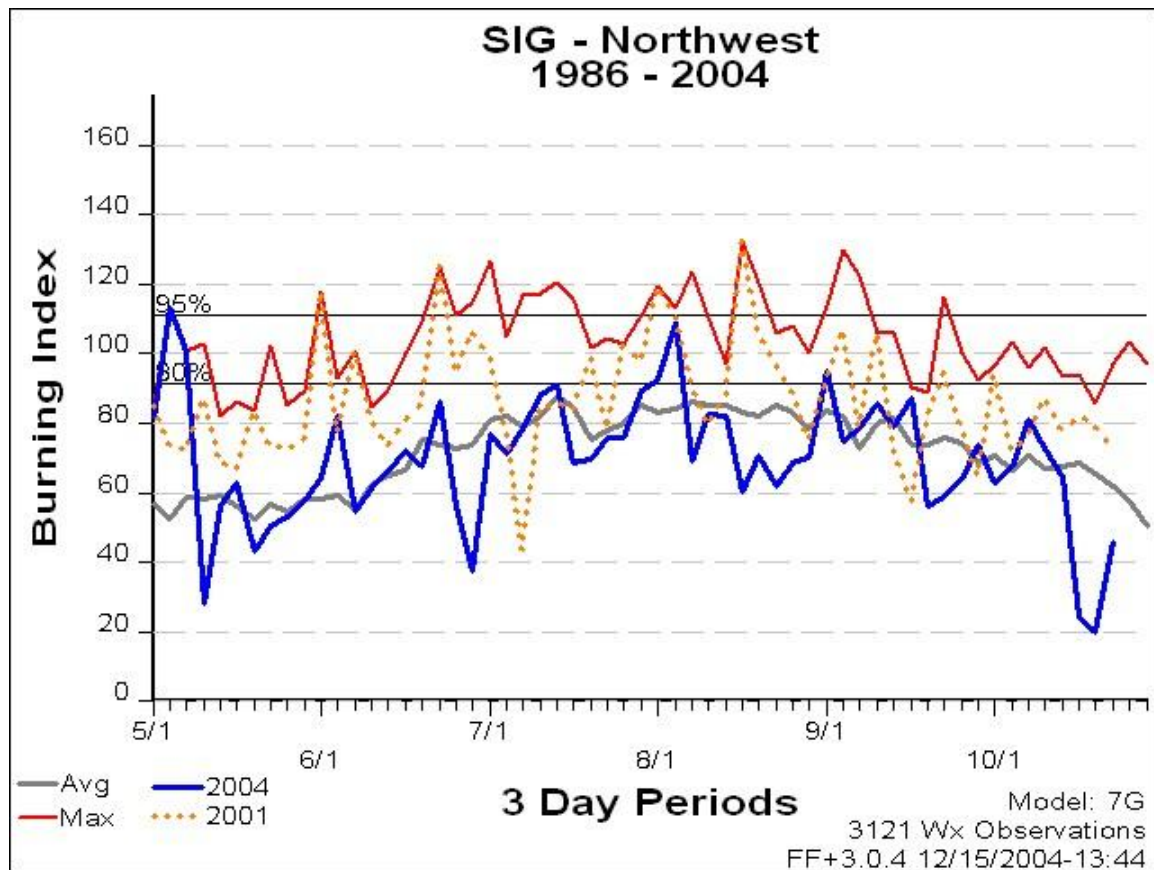
The Fire Family Plus software package is used to establish the fire break points. A statistical analysis based on historical weather and fire activity determines the appropriate index and associated break points for each of the FDRAS.

## D. Fire Business Break Point Tables

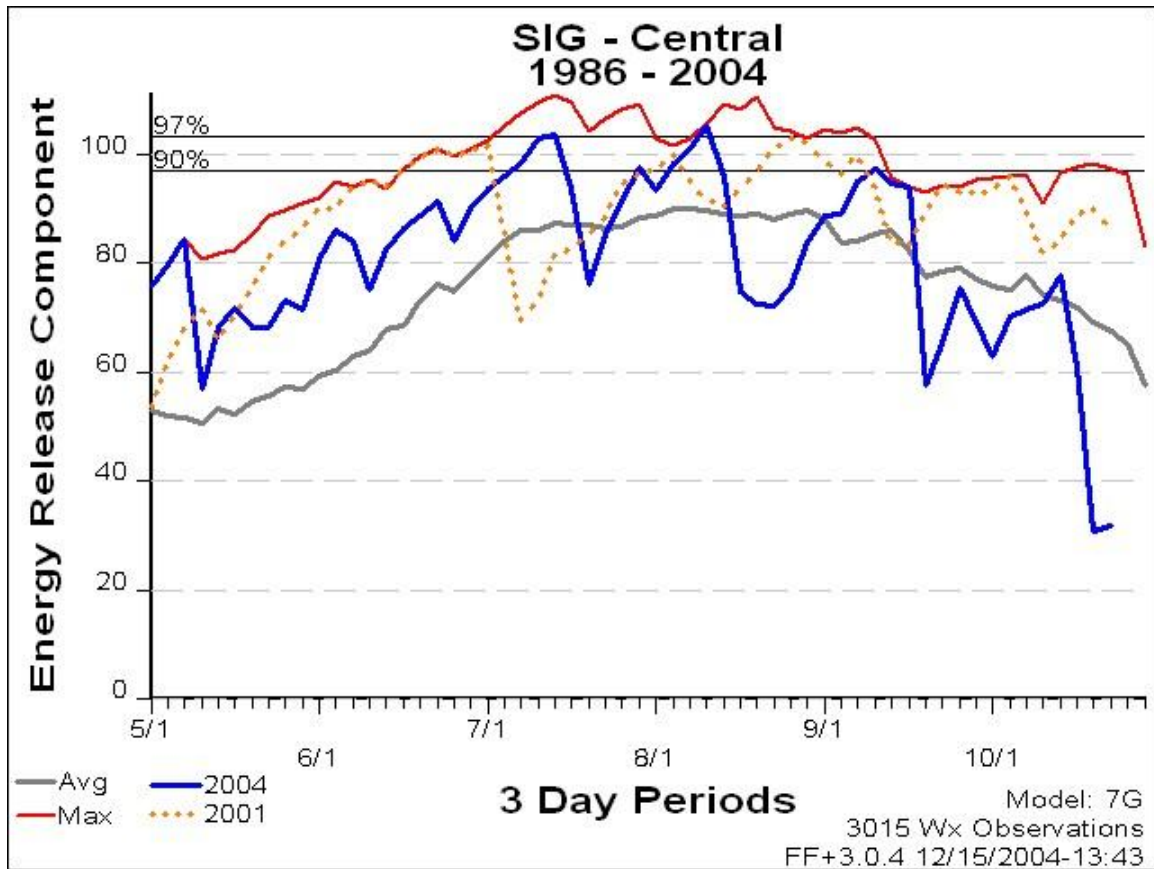
### 1. North Fire Danger Rating Area

Rating Area	RAWS	Start Date	Weighting Factor	Fuel Model	Staffing Index	Fire Business Break Point Ranges	
North	Texas Spring Siard	1989		G	ERC	APL1	0-34
						APL2	35-60
						APL3	61-75
						APL4	76-92
						APL5	93+

Fire Family Plus Analysis factors and Determinations



## 2. Central Fire Danger Rating Area

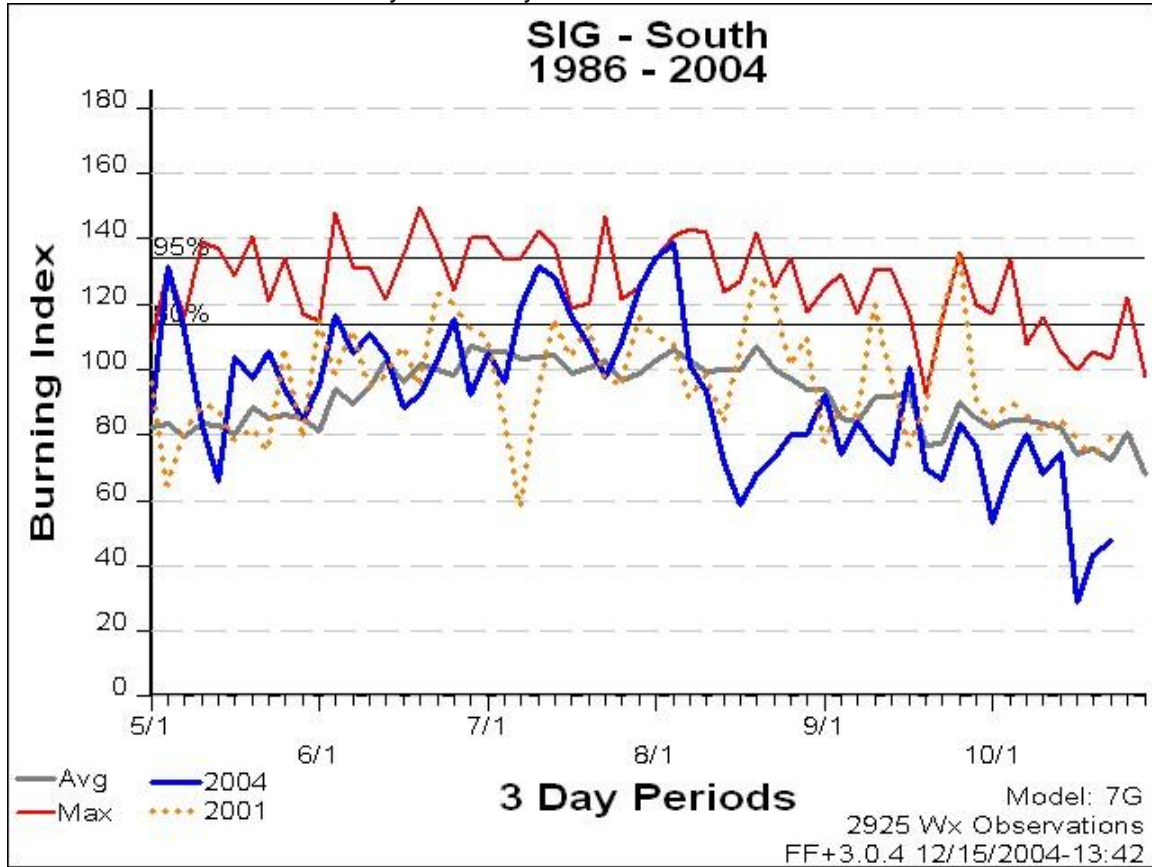


Rating Area	RAWS	Start Date	Weighting Factor	Fuel Model	Staffing Index	Fire Business Break Point Ranges	
Central	Desatoya Mnt. Coils Creek Beacon Light	1984	1	G	ERC	APL1	0-49
						APL2	50-69
						APL3	70-83
						APL4	84-92
						APL5	93+

### 3. South Fire Danger Rating Area

Rating Area	RAWS	Start Date	Weighting Factor	Fuel Model	Staffing Index	Fire Business Break Point Ranges	
South	Pancake Oriental Wash	1984	1	G	ERC	APL4	113-133
						APL5	134+

Fire Family Plus Analysis factors and Determinations





## Planning Levels and Interagency Preparedness Levels

A worksheet will be used to set daily levels. Agency Planning Levels are separately determined for the low elevation and the high elevation fire danger areas. Agency Planning Levels are then combined in a flow chart for a final Interagency Preparedness level. The resultant agency Planning Levels will be broadcast in conjunction with the morning information report and documented on the Morning Intelligence Report. Actual Planning Levels will be broadcast with the afternoon weather report. Adjective fire danger ratings will also be broadcast and documented in the same manner.

### A. Agency planning Level Worksheet Instructions

1. **Index Value:** Determine the average index value (use BI for North and South, and ERC for Central) based on the weather stations for each fire danger rating area. These indices are forecasted by the National Weather Service based on the previous days 1300 RAWs observations, which are entered into WIMS by the CNIDC Intelligence dispatcher. The final index value is determined by a 5-day average to eliminate “spiking” of the data.
2. **Action:** After the Planning Level is set, daily procedures are followed and suggested actions can be taken.

### B. Dispatch Level Worksheet Instruction

1. **Index Value:** Determine the average index value (use BI for North and South, and ERC for Central) based on the weather stations for each fire danger area. These indices are forecasted by National Weather Service based on the previous days 1300 RAWs observations, which are entered into WIMS by the CNIDC Intelligence Dispatcher. Modifiers (list below) are then added to determine the dispatch level for the day.
2. **Red Flag Warning:** If a Red Flag Warning is forecasted, increase the index value as indicated in the worksheet.
3. **Haines Index:** If the Haines index is forecasted to be a six, increase the index value as indicated in the worksheet.
4. **Run Card:** Once the dispatch level of Low, Moderate, or High is determined, run cards from the Wildcad system are used to determine the response of suppression forces to an incident.

### C. Adjective Fire Danger Rating Break Points

#### 1. AFDR Description

Adjective fire danger break points are based on staffing classes (divisions of fire danger) and a staffing index/component (BI or ERC). Rather than use the standard 80-95% breakpoints for BI and 90-97% breakpoints for ERC, break points for the North and Central FDRAs were analyzed statistically to produce breakpoints that were well correlated with large fire (over 300 acres) occurrence. The procedure was to compute BI and ERC using Fuel Model G for the years 1986-2004, and then associate these values with records of BLM fires occurring in each FDRA. The exception was for the Southern FDRA, where only 3 large fires have occurred since 1986.

There is not enough of a database to be statistically significant. Thus, the South break points are set using the 80-95% as for BI, and 90-97% for ERC.

There are five levels of adjective fire danger: low, moderate, high, very high, and extreme.

The resultant adjective fire danger information will be determined as part of the Agency Planning Level calculations.

**D. Planning Level Worksheet – North Fire Danger Rating Area**

1. Agency Planning level – 5 Day Average BI for the Fuel Model T \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Average BI for North</b>	<b>0-34</b>	<b>35-60</b>	<b>61-75</b>	<b>76-92</b>	<b>93+</b>
<b>Agency Planning Level</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BLM, USFS, BIA</b>					
<b>Adjective Rating</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Extreme</b>

2. Dispatch Level Worksheet – North

a. Actual Daily BI for Fuel Model T - \_\_\_\_\_

b. Red Flag Warning – if one has been issued – add 30 points \_\_\_\_\_

c. Haines Index – if predicted to be a six – add 30 points \_\_\_\_\_

Final Index Value - \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Index Value for North</b>	<b>0-60</b>	<b>61-92</b>	<b>93+</b>
<b>Dispatch Level</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>

**E. Planning Level Worksheet – Central Fire Danger Rating Area**

1. Agency Planning Level – 5 Day Average ERC for Fuel Model F or C - \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Average ERC for Central</b>	<b>0-49</b>	<b>50-69</b>	<b>70-83</b>	<b>84-92</b>	<b>93+</b>
<b>Agency Planning Level BLM, USFS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Adjective Rating</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Extreme</b>

2. Dispatch Level Worksheet – Central

a. Actual Daily ERC for Fuel Model F or C - \_\_\_\_\_

b. Red Flag Warning – if one has been issued add 10 points \_\_\_\_\_

c. Haines Index - if predicted to be a six – add 10 points \_\_\_\_\_

Final Index Value - \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Index Value for Central</b>	<b>0-69</b>	<b>70-92</b>	<b>93+</b>
<b>Dispatch Level</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>

**F. Planning Level Worksheet – South Fire Danger Rating Area**

1. Agency Planning Level – 5 Day Average BI for Fuel Model F or C - \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Average BI for South</b>	<b>0-112</b>	<b>0-112</b>	<b>0-112</b>	<b>113-133</b>	<b>133+</b>
<b>Agency Planning Level</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BLM, USFS</b>					
<b>Adjective Rating</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Extreme</b>

2. Dispatch Level Worksheet – South

a. Actual Daily BI for Fuel Model F or C - \_\_\_\_\_

b. Red Flag Warning – if one has been issued add 10 points \_\_\_\_\_

c. Haines Index - if predicted to be a six – add 10 points \_\_\_\_\_

Final Index Value - \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Index Value for Central</b>	<b>0-113</b>	<b>113-133</b>	<b>133+</b>
<b>Dispatch Level</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>

## G. Agency Planning Level (AL) Actions

Planning Level Actions are guidelines, and as such are discretionary in nature, for agency personnel to refer to when planning level thresholds are reached. If an agency doesn't have a specific position that is listed within the PL Table then that agency will utilize discretion as to what position will assume those roles, i.e., FMO or it will be delegated.

### 1. Agency Administrators

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	AL 1	AL 2	AL 3	AL 4	AL 5	Affected Entity
Agency Administrator	Ensure office staff are notifying CNIDC of their fire availability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Ensure resource advisors are designated and available for fire assignments.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Evaluate work/rest needs of fire staff and crews	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider need for fire restrictions or closures			✓	✓	✓	Public Industry
	Provide appropriate political support to fire staffs regarding the implementation of planning level actions			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	If required, review severity requests submitted by each agency.				✓	✓	Agency
	Issue guidance to staff indicating severity of the season and increased need and availability for fire support personnel				✓	✓	Agency
	Evaluate need for a Fire and Aviation Team (FAST)				✓	✓	Agency

## 2. Fire Management Officer

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	AL 1	AL 2	AL 3	AL 4	AL 5	Affected Entity
FMO	If planning level is decreasing, consult with Duty Officer/ CNIDC Manager and consider release of pre-positioned or detailed personnel.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Evaluate season severity data (BI and ERC trends for season, fuel loading, live FM, drought indices, and long term forecasts).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Evaluate crew and staff work/rest requirements.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Brief agency administrator on burning conditions and fire activity		✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Review geographical and national preparedness levels and evaluate need to suspend local prescribe fire activities			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Ensure Prevention Officer has initiated media contacts and public education contacts.			✓	✓	✓	Public Industry
	Ensure office staff are briefed on increasing fire activity			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Brief Forest Fire Staff or FMO on increasing fire activity.			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider fire severity request and pre-positioning of resources including: suppression resources, aerial support, aerial supervision, command positions, dispatch, logistical support, and prevention.			✓	✓	✓	Agency Public Industry
	Evaluate need for fire restrictions or closures.				✓	✓	Public Industry
	Communicate with WGBCC Manager on geographical conditions and resources availability.				✓	✓	Agency
	Request the Agency Administrator to issue guidance to office staff regarding the need for increased fire availability in support positions.				✓	✓	Agency
	Consult with the State FMO/Forest Fire Staff Officer and agency administrators regarding potential need to pre-position a type 2 Team				✓	✓	Agency

### 3. CNIDC Manager

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	AL 1	AL 2	AL 3	AL 4	AL 5
CNIDC Manager, Intelligence	Evaluate work/rest needs of the center staff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Input weather observations into WIMS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	If preparedness level is decreasing, consider release of pre-positioned or detailed dispatchers and logistical support personnel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Begin tracking weekly conference calls with FMO's and Operations staff			✓	✓	✓
	Consult with Duty Officer concerning potential for extended staffing beyond normal shift length of IA staff			✓	✓	✓
	Consider pre-positioning or detail of off-unit IA dispatchers and logistical support personnel			✓	✓	✓
	Notify Local Procurement Team			✓	✓	✓
	Consider activation of local MAC Group			✓	✓	✓
	Consider ordering a Fire Behavior Analyst				✓	✓
	Consult with FMO's regarding need for severity request			✓	✓	✓
	Consider bringing additional dispatch personnel in from scheduled days off				✓	✓



#### 4. Duty Officer

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	AL 1	AL 2	AL 3	AL 4	AL 5	Affected Entity
Duty Officer	If planning level is decreasing, consider releasing pre-positioned and detailed resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Ensure incoming pre-position or detailed personnel are briefed on local conditions.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Evaluate work/rest needs of IA crews	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider aerial detection flight			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Evaluate need to charge or shift duty hours of IA resources			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider patrols and pre-positioning of local IA resources in high risk areas.			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider extending staffing beyond normal shift length			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Brief FMO on severity of conditions and consider severity requests.			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider pre-positioning and/or detailing of additional IA resources from off-unit			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider bringing in the local IA resources from scheduled days off.				✓	✓	Agency
	Consider patrols in camping and recreation areas.				✓	✓	Agency
	Consider suspending prescribed fire operations				✓	✓	Agency
	Consider automatic dispatch of heavy air tanker for IA				✓	✓	Agency

## 5. Resource Advisor

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	AL 1	AL 2	AL 3	AL 4	AL 5	Affected Entity
Resource Advisor	Acquire daily Planning Levels and Fire Danger levels			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Coordinate efforts with the Duty Officer and Incident Commanders			✓	✓	✓	Agency

## 6. Fire Operation Supervisors

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	AL 1	AL 2	AL 3	AL 4	AL 5	Affected Entity
Fire Operation Supervisors	Ensure IA crews are briefed on local level, burning conditions, and availability of IA resources and air support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Evaluate work/rest needs of crew. Ensure days off are taken and request relief if needed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Ensure that an adequate daily briefing is provided	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Ensure equipment and crew preparedness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Provide Duty Officer feedback regarding crew fatigue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Perform required check-ins-including checking-in when moving location during the day	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Participate in prevention activities as required			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Provide duty officer with feedback regarding unique/unexpected fire behavior, severity conditions, and the need to increase IA capabilities				✓	✓	Agency

## 7. Fire Prevention/Mitigation

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	AL 1	AL 2	AL 3	AL 4	AL 5	Affected Entity
Fire Prevention / Mitigation	Contact Public Information Officer / Local Media to inform of the start of the fire season and the potential for local fire danger to increase	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Provide public and industrial entities with access to fire danger information, closures, restrictions, and warnings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Ensure the public and industrial entities are aware of the policy of fire investigation and potential consequences related with the incident cost recovery process	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider need for increased fire prevention patrols			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Contact local industrial entities to inform of hazard and risk.			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Contact local fire chiefs and inform of increased fire danger.			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider door to door contacts in rural communities.			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Post signs and warning in camping and recreation areas.			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Notify local media if High/Extreme fire danger and the need for increased public caution.			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consult FMO regarding severity request and the need for additional prevention personnel or fire prevention team.			✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consult with FMO regarding need for fire restrictions or closures				✓	✓	Agency

## 8. Law Enforcement Rangers

Responsible Party	Suggested Action	AL 1	AL 2	AL 3	AL 4	AL 5	Affected Entity
Law Enforcement	Check-In and notify dispatch of daily availability for fire assignments and location for the day	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agency
	Consider increased patrol in high fire danger rating areas, such as campgrounds, OHV areas, and shooting areas.				✓	✓	Agency
	Consider pre-positioning for detailing fire investigation personnel				✓	✓	Agency
	Consult with Fire Prevention Personnel and FMO regarding need for fire restrictions or closures.				✓	✓	Agency

## H. Preparedness Plan

CNIDC Preparedness Levels are established by the CNIDC MACG throughout the calendar year. Preparedness levels are dictated by burning conditions, fire activity and resource availability. Resource availability is the area of most concern. Situations and activities described within the preparedness levels consider wildland and prescribed fire.

### 1. Why Preparedness Levels Are Established--CNIDC:

- A. To identify the level of wildland and prescribed fire activity, severity and resource commitment within the CNIDC Center.
- B. To identify actions to be taken by CNIDC to ensure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential situation.
- C. To guide, modify and direct CNIDC Fire Management activities when essential to ensure agency preparedness or response capabilities.

The CNIDC Manager will monitor the area's wildland and prescribed fire activity and Geographic Area Preparedness Levels and determine Preparedness Levels. **As levels increase, all management direction/considerations from each previous level will automatically be continued at the next higher level.**

### 2. Preparedness Level (PL) Descriptions:

<b>Preparedness Level 1:</b>	<b>Description:</b> No large fire activity in progress. All WIMS indices (adjective levels) indicate low to moderate fire indices. Number and size of fires not to exceed two Class A or B fires per day. Fires do not exceed one burning period. There are adequate resources available for initial attack activities with a reserve of forces for additional activity.					
	<b>Suggested Action</b>	<b>PL 1</b>	<b>PL 2</b>	<b>PL 3</b>	<b>PL 4</b>	<b>PL 5</b>
	CNIDC will report all status of all fires to WGBCC.	✓				
						<b>Affected Entity</b>
						CNIDC Manager

<b>Preparedness Level 2:</b>	<b>Description:</b> No large fire activity in progress. 50% or more of the WIMS data indicates low to moderate fire danger, and some indicating up to high fire danger. Number and size of fires not to exceed three Class A and B or 1 Class C fire. Fires may extend into the second burning period. 30% of Initial Attack resources are committed to wildfires.						
	<b>Suggested Action</b>	<b>PL 1</b>	<b>PL 2</b>	<b>PL 3</b>	<b>PL 4</b>	<b>PL 5</b>	<b>Affected Entity</b>
	CNIDC will report all status of all fires to WGBCC.	✓	✓				CNIDC Manager
	Ensure all primary suppression forces are fire ready.		✓				FMO's

<b>Preparedness Level 3:</b>	<b>Description:</b> Most WIMS data indicate High to Very High with a few reporting Extreme. More than 3 two fire exceeding Class B fires. Fires consistently escape initial attack efforts requiring additional support. Holding actions require increasing numbers of resources. 50% of initial attack resources are committed to wildfires.						
	<b>Suggested Action</b>	<b>PL 1</b>	<b>PL 2</b>	<b>PL 3</b>	<b>PL 4</b>	<b>PL 5</b>	<b>Affected Entity</b>
	CNIDC will report all status of all fires to WGBCC.	✓	✓	✓			CNIDC Manager
	Ensure all primary suppression forces are fire ready.		✓	✓			FMO's
	CNIDC will develop and disseminate a Daily Intelligence Report.			✓			CNIDC Manager/ Intelligence
	CNIDC will ensure updated and accurate AD hire list is available.			✓			CNIDC Manager
	Daily morning staffing reports to be submitted to CNIDC by Duty Officers.			✓			Duty Officer
	Daily agency staff availability statusing will be completed each morning.			✓			Duty Officer
	Assess resource availability from neighboring agencies.			✓			FMO's

<b>Preparedness Level 4:</b>	<b>Description:</b> Most WIMS data report Very High to Extreme fire dangers. Numerous escaped fires including at least one Class D/E fire. No break in weather expected for 48 hours. 90% of initial attack resources are committed to fires.						
	<b>Suggested Action</b>	<b>PL 1</b>	<b>PL 2</b>	<b>PL 3</b>	<b>PL 4</b>	<b>PL 5</b>	<b>Affected Entity</b>
	CNIDC will report all status of all fires to WGBCC.	✓	✓	✓	✓		CNIDC Manager
	Ensure all primary suppression forces are fire ready.		✓	✓	✓		FMO's
	CNIDC will develop and disseminate a Daily Intelligence Report.			✓	✓		CNIDC Manager/ Intelligence
	CNIDC will ensure updated and accurate AD hire list is available.			✓	✓		CNIDC Manager
	Daily morning staffing reports to be submitted to CNIDC by Duty Officers.			✓	✓		Duty Officer
	Daily agency staff availability statusing will be completed each morning.			✓	✓		Duty Officer
	Assess resource availability from neighboring agencies.			✓	✓		FMO's
	Establish weekly or more frequent CNIDC MAC Group conference calls.				✓		CNIDC Manger and FMO's (CNIDC MACG)
	Line Officer will make all fire qualified individuals available for agency assignments.				✓		Line Officer and FMO's

<b>(Continued) Preparedness Level 4:</b>	<b>Suggested Action</b>	<b>PL 1</b>	<b>PL 2</b>	<b>PL 3</b>	<b>PL 4</b>	<b>PL 5</b>	<b>Affected Entity</b>
	Consider pre-positioning Smoke Jumpers or Hot Shot Crews.				✓		Line Officer, FMO's and CNIDC Manager
	Consider ordering additional CNIDC and Fire Program Managers, i.e. Leadership and Management Positions.				✓		Line Officer, FMO's and CNIDC Manager
	Coordinate pre-positioning of resources as may be appropriate.				✓		Duty Officer
	Coordinate the need to extend daily staffing.				✓		Duty Officer
	Coordinate wildland fire restrictions.				✓		FMO's



<b>Preparedness Level 5:</b>	<b>Description:</b> All WIMS data reporting Very High to Extreme indices. No change in weather predicted for the next 48 hours. Multiple escaped fires requiring the commitment of Type I or Type II teams. Possibility of new starts very likely; probability of containment unlikely. 100% of initial attack resources are committed to fires and off-district resources are being requested to fill agencies shortages.						
	<b>Suggested Action</b>	<b>PL 1</b>	<b>PL 2</b>	<b>PL 3</b>	<b>PL 4</b>	<b>PL 5</b>	<b>Affected Entity</b>
	CNIDC will report all status of all fires to WGBCC.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CNIDC Manager
	Ensure all primary suppression forces are fire ready.		✓	✓	✓	✓	FMO's
	CNIDC will develop and disseminate a Daily Intelligence Report.			✓	✓	✓	CNIDC Manager/ Intelligence
	CNIDC will ensure updated and accurate AD hire list is available.			✓	✓	✓	CNIDC Manager
	Daily morning staffing reports to be submitted to CNIDC by Duty Officers.			✓	✓	✓	Duty Officer
	Daily agency staff availability statusing will be completed each morning.			✓	✓	✓	Duty Officer
	Assess resource availability from neighboring agencies.			✓	✓	✓	FMO's
	Add Liaison Officer/ensure coordination with local Fire Department.					✓	FMO, AFMO and Duty Officer

(Continued) Preparedness Level 5:	Suggested Action	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5	Affected Entity
	Line Officer will make all fire qualified individuals available for district assignments.				✓	✓	Line Officer and FMO's
	Consider pre-positioning Smoke Jumpers or Hot Shot Crews.				✓	✓	Line Officer, FMO's and CNIDC Manager
	Consider ordering additional CNIDC and Fire Program Managers, i.e. Leadership and Management Positions.				✓	✓	Line Officer, FMO's and CNIDC Manager
	Coordinate pre-positioning of resources as may be appropriate.				✓	✓	Duty Officer
	Coordinate the need to extend daily staffing.				✓	✓	Duty Officer
	Coordinate wildland fire restrictions.				✓	✓	FMO's
	Establish daily or more frequent CNIDC MAC Group conference calls.					✓	CNIDC Manager and FMO's (CNIDC MACG)

### 3. **Preparedness Level 5 to 4:**

**Description:** Competition for resources has significantly decreased. No critical fire weather events are forecasted for the next 24 hours and moderating weather conditions are forecast for the next three to five days.

### 4. **Preparedness Level 4 to 3:**

**Description:** Significant demobilization is occurring. Crews are being released daily and sent to home units. Local Initial Attack resources are available for new fires. Moderating conditions are forecasted for the next 24 hours and higher humidity and lower temperatures are forecast for the major fire areas.

### 5. **Preparedness Level 3 to 2:**

**Description:** The majority of large fires are contained. All Initial Attack resources are again available. Large fire areas are expected to receive precipitation with associated higher humidity and lower temperatures.

## I. **Draw-Down Resource Levels**

1. **Description:** The draw-down levels define the minimum number of each firefighting resource available on unit at various Planning Levels.
2. **Battle Mountain Field Office and the U.S. Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe Santa Rosa and Austin-Tonopah Ranger Districts**
  - A. These agencies do not have draw-down tables based upon management preference and number of resources. These agencies will make daily decisions regarding their respective draw-down and will communicate these decisions to CNIDC.
3. **Winnemucca Field Office Fire Division Resources**
  - A. Extenuating circumstances (such as holidays) may necessitate keeping more resources than indicated below at Planning Levels 1 through 3. Ordering additional resources to meet minimum Levels will occur on a case-by-case basis through consultation with FMO's or local MAC group. The following table lists the minimum numbers for each resource type in the Winnemucca Fire Division.

Resource	PL 1	PL 2	PL 3	PL 4	PL 5
Type 3 Engine			1	1	1
Type 4 Engine		3	5	7	7
Type 6 Engine		1	2	2	2
Water Tender			1	1	1
Dozer			1	1	1
Helicopter			1	1	1
SEATs			1	2	2
Air Attack			1	1	1

At planning levels 4 and 5, off-unit resource requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For example, there may be a chance to get a trainee qualified or the manager may have strong indications that the Planning Level will drop.

#### 4. Program Leadership

- A. The **FMO**, designated acting FMO or representative will be available on unit in all Planning Levels.
- B. At Planning Levels 4 and 5 the **AFMO**, designated acting AFMO or representative will be available on unit.
- C. At least one **FOS/AFMO**, designated acting FOS/AFMO or representative will be available on unit in Planning Levels 1 through 3. At Planning Levels 4 and 5, both FOS's and the Rural Fire Coordinator (WFO only) or their designated qualified acting positions will be available on unit. The FMO and AFMO will not be gone off unit at the same time.
- D. The **CNIDC Manager** or designated acting will be available on unit during Planning Levels 1 through 3. At Planning Levels 4 and 5, the **CNIDC Manager** or designated acting and the CNIDC Assistant Manager and CNIDC Supervisory Dispatcher or will be available—i.e., at Planning Levels 4 and 5, two of the three CNIDC Managers will be available on unit.